

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the most recent Office Action dated November 10, 2010. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 11 and 17-21 are allowed.

Furthermore, the Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the Office Action, claims 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kijima et al. (U.S. Patent 6,661,451). Claims 1-9 were previously cancelled.

By the present amendment, rejected claim 10 has been cancelled, and objected-to claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form to recite all of the features previously recited in base claim 10. Therefore, claim 13 and its dependent claims 14-16 should now be allowable. The rewriting of claim 13 into independent form is believed to be accurate; however, the Examiner is requested to perform an independent review in order to confirm that this is indeed the case.

In addition, rejected claim 12, which originally depended from claim 10, has been amended to depend from allowable claim 13.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all claims remaining in this application should now be in condition for allowance, and therefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the

Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 500.38315VX2), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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